(e) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF SIATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government is aware of the pollution caused by effluents released by the H-Acid manufacturing units in Bichhri.

(b) and (c) A number of stejps are being taken to oontrol the pollution. These include;

(i) The two units manufacturing H-Acid have been closed down.

(ii) The Cential Government has directed the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board t_0 take effective measures for the safe removal and disposal of sludge generated in the manufacture of H-Acid.

(iii) The Supreme; Court has directed the units to undertake the work of transporting and storting the sludge! in safe places before the advent of monsoon and to be|ar the costs for the same. The work is being carried oat under the supervision of the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board.

(d) and (e) The State Government has been directeld by the Supreme Court to collect data on the nature and extent of environmental damage to estimate the amount of compensation that is required to be paid to the affected villages

Health hazards of Benzene

1394. SHRI SHAMIM) HASHMI: *Will* the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Benzene is widely used in Synthesis of various chemicals compounds, drugs, inks, paints, rub ber industry, fruits, fish, eggs, daily production etc., and as octane buoster in gasoline;

(b) whether it is found in high concentration in urban areas with heavy truck and auto traffic; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce the health hazards from Benzene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Eenzene is widely used as a solvent and raw material fo_r the synthesis of a wide veriety of chemical compounds. Benzene is not used as an octane booster in petrol.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Benzene is listed at S. No. 32 in Part II of Schedule I of the Rules en Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals notified on 27th November, 1989 under the Environment (Protection.) Act, 1936. The rules regulate the handling of Benzene. An occupier controlling an industrial activity handling Bencene has to take steps to prevent major accidents and provide for the safety of the workers; collect, develop and disseminate information and give information to the concerned authority about imports.

1395. *[Transferred to ihe 30th May,* 1990]

Encouragement of Sanskrit

1396. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) what steps are being taken to encourage Sanskrit;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country Sanskrit Schools and Collages have been closed down for want of funds; and

(c)' if so, what steps are taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): *<a)* For encouraging the study of Sanskrit in the country, following schemes/programmes have been undertaken: —

(i)' Financial grants to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Sanskrit.